**PSYCHOLOGY – Information Literacy Project**

**Tips:**

* Plan Ahead and Start Early
* Understand the differences between popular & scholarly articles *(the handout “Distinguishing Scholarly from Non-Scholarly Publications” is available in the library lab and online at:* <http://waynecollegelibrary.wikispaces.com/>*)*
* You may need to request the scholarly article through interlibrary loan. Allow 3-5 days. It’s free!

**Steps:**

1. Locate a popular article that discusses a scholarly research study by:

* browsing popular periodicals such as *Newsweek*, *Psychology Today*, *New Scientist, Time*

*(all are available in the library)*

**OR**

* searching a database that includes popular articles

(Academic Search Complete or Masterfile Premier)

1. While reading the popular article, look for references or *“clues”* to a specific research study. On your copy, highlight or circle each clue. Clues may be:

* the specific name of a journal / journal title
* the author’s name or lead researcher’s name

(look for credentials such as Ph.D. or MD)

* the specific name/title of the study
* keywords describing the study

1. Try to answer the following questions about the original research study based on your highlighted clues.

* What was the study about?
* Who conducted the scholarly research?
* When was the research completed?
* Where was the research conducted?
* What source published the study?

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1. Next, search a scholarly research database to locate the full-text of the original scholarly study cited in your popular article. Here are some suggestions:

* Academic Search Complete - a broad, multidisciplinary database; a good choice for most studies
* Electronic Journal Center (EJC) – a broad, multidisciplinary database/journal archive; a good choice for in-depth research studies
* Medline - a subject-specific database for medicine -nursing, dentistry, health care, and more; a good choice for medical studies
* PsychINFO – a subject-specific database for psychology; a good choice for psychological studies

1. On the database search screen, locate drop-down menus ↓ or click on *Advanced Search* to search specific fields and keywords. *(Your clues should match at least 1 if not several of these fields.)* Insert them in the boxes as shown here and submit the search.

**Remember to invert author’s name.**

Journal of Neural Engineering

Journal Name/Source

Engdahl Brian ←

Author

PTSD

Keyword

1. Scan through the list of results keeping in mind that:

* the scholarly study you’re looking for must have been published PRIOR TO the popular article.
* the author or lead researcher is probably an expert in the field and has most likely had several studies published on the topic. Try to select the study that most closely matches your popular article.

MCj03663940000[1]Do you need additional assistance?

Please contact the Wayne College Library Information Desk:

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Chat: <http://wayne.uakron.edu/library/chat.dot>

SMS Text: 330-828-6773

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